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In Memoriam Leon Harry Wallace (1904-1985)

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

In Memoriam

Leon Harry Wallace (1904-1985)

Former Dean Leon Wallace died in November. The following tribute was written by Professor William Oliver and Professors Emeritus Harry Pratter and F. Reed Dickerson.

Leon Harry Wallace, lawyer, teacher, scholar, historian, cartographer, author, administrator, public servant, loyal Hoosier, and gentleman was a person who drew deep satisfaction from a life-long love affair with Indiana and Indiana University, to both of which he contributed generously.

Born in Terre Haute, he entrusted his first two years of undergraduate study to the University of Illinois, a youthful indiscretion that he later corrected by taking his last two years and an AB degree at Indiana. Soon after graduation he sharpened his geographical (and perhaps other) perspectives by a stint as production manager for Rand McNally & Company in San Francisco before yielding to the urge to become a lawyer, an urge that brought a law degree at Indiana in 1933, followed by a 12-year affiliation with a leading Terre Haute law firm.

Spurred, perhaps, by having married into a distinguished and long-standing academic tradition, and despite substantial financial sacrifice, he determined, in 1945, to share his legal insights with the young by accepting a law teaching position at the Law School in Bloomington. Here he quickly moved within seven years from associate professor to professor, to acting dean to dean. In his last capacity, which also included responsibility for the now autonomous Law School in Indianapolis, he served with devotion from 1952 to 1966, counting as one of his major Bloomington achievements the funding and development of a fine new law building. Since that time he con-



tributed memorable studies on legislative reappointment and state boundary disputes while occupying the distinguished Charles McGuffey Hepburn Professorship of Law. Both studies reflect the meticulous care that marks the authentic scholar.

Perhaps his greatest talent as administrator and pedagogue was the ability to develop and maintain an extraordinary fund of confidence, loyalty and respect among the law alumni and members of the state bar at large, a bond so strong and so permanent that it can be explained only by his intense personal interest in the student as an individual, his patience as a listener, and his impressive qualities of perceptiveness, decency, and compassion.

Despite his indefatigable dedication to Indiana University, Dean Wallace managed to accumulate an impressive list of accomplishments beyond Bloomington, and even beyond the state. His contributions to state and municipal government included his appoint-

(continued on page 10)

ment as chairperson of the United States District Court's advisory panel on legislative apportionment, his service as the Governor's representative on the Indiana Constitution Revision Commission, and as consultant to the State in the Indiana-Kentucky boundary dispute. His federal contribution included service as a special hearing officer for the United States Department of Justice.

His professional affiliations confirmed the judgment that his interest in the law and public affairs was not parochial. His many memberships included the American Bar Association (where he served as chairperson of the Section of Local Government Law); the Indiana, Indianapolis, and Monroe County bar associations; the American Law Institute; Order of the Coif; and the professional legal fraternity Phi Delta Phi, where he served as president from 1949-51. His non-legal affiliations included the American Academy of Social and Political Sciences, the Academy of Political Science, and the fraternities Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Delta Chi, and Delta Tau Delta.

Dean Wallace's conscientiousness, quiet competence, prodigious memory, general thoughtfulness, modesty, and gentleness of spirit were qualities that are of increasing value in an uncertain world. For these, as for his many tangible accomplishments and the privilege of enjoying their fruits, we warmly salute him.